

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
ESHER AND THE DITTONS.


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FOURTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
FOR THE YEAR

❧ 1898. ❧

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W. DREWETT & SONS,  
PRINTERS,  
KINGSTON, ESHER AND EAST MOLESEY.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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*February 3rd, 1899.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ESHER AND  
THE DITTONS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District for the year 1898.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

I estimate that the population of the District in the middle of 1898 amounted to 8,983.

During the year 107 deaths occurred in the District, 3 of these were persons who died in the District but were non residents, and the remaining 104 deaths, together with the number of persons belonging to the District who died outside in the Isolation Hospital and elsewhere, viz :—3, gives a total of 107 deaths for the District, and a death rate of 11·91 per 1000 living. This is ·4 per 1000 in excess of that of last year, but compares very favourably with the death rate of England and Wales.

The number of births registered was 226, giving an annual birth rate of 25·04 per 1000. The same rate for 1897 was 23·53.

The number of Infants under the age of 1 year who died was 20, this gives an Infant mortality figure of 92·94 per 1000 births registered. This compares favourably with the Infant mortality of 1897 which was 148, and compares very favourably with that of England and Wales for 1898, which is 153 per 1000 births registered.

There have been 15 deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic diseases (which are Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, Fever and Diarrhœa). This gives a zymotic death rate of 1·67 per 1000 living. The deaths were:—Diphtheria 8, Whooping Cough 3, Typhoid Fever 1, Diarrhœa 3.

#### GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION.

The sanitary condition of the District continues to be of a very satisfactory character. Inspections of cottage property are periodically made, and any insanitary defects discovered are immediately brought to the notice of the property owners concerned. The sanitary fittings of a great number of cottages on the Clump Meadow Estate are frequently out of order, especially the flushing cisterns to water closets; and it is very desirable that these cheap apparatus should be replaced with cisterns of a more substantial pattern. The private drains of many of the cottages in this locality have on several occasions become blocked. In the interest of the tenants of the cottages I am of opinion that these drains should be subjected to a thorough inspection by exposing the whole system. Should trouble again arise in respect to the blockage of these drains I shall be compelled to ask the Council to put in force the powers of the Public Health Act with the view of discovering whether they are efficient or not, and in the event of their re-construction being necessary arrangements should be made whereby the drains can be properly and regularly flushed with the Council's water carts.



During wet weather the back yards of most cottages in the District have been in a very unsatisfactory condition ; the Council have power to remedy this by making bye-laws calling upon Owners of Property to pave yards and open spaces in connection with dwelling houses. No doubt this would entail considerable expense on property owners, but it is most desirable that such a bye-law should be framed for the benefit of the health of both adults and children who inhabit these cottages.

The old cottage property in various parts of the District to which I referred in my report of last year is in about the same condition, the only effectual remedy is to obtain closing orders, but I hesitate to recommend this extreme course at present as it would entail such hardship on the present occupiers.

#### MAIN DRAINAGE.

The main drainage of the District during the past year has been maintained in a most satisfactory manner. Offensive smells emanating from the sewers, so prevalent in previous years, have been practically abolished by systematic flushing.

The drainage to private houses generally is satisfactory, only a few isolated cesspools exist and all new drains are constructed under strict supervision and carefully tested.

#### DUST REMOVAL.

Since the work of collecting dust has been undertaken directly by the Council very few complaints have been received, and the only drawback to the present system is the great distance the dust has to be carted after it has been collected, this prevents the dustmen disposing of more than two loads per day.

## BAKEHOUSES, COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Some of the bakehouses in the District are rather old fashioned and admit of considerable improvement. Many of the cowsheds used by small cowkeepers are also unsatisfactory, and I hope that shortly power will be given to the local authorities to deal with existing sheds and dairies so that what is now almost a menace to the public health may be done away with. It is only right, however, that cowkeepers whose buildings are not what they should be, should be duly warned before extreme action is resorted to.

## THE KEEPING OF POULTRY AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

I again feel it my duty to mention how very undesirable it is for cottagers to keep poultry rabbits, and other domestic animals in the very limited areas attached to their dwellings. This practice gives rise to offensive smells, particularly in the summer months and in wet weather. The nuisance can only be controlled by the Council framing and enforcing suitable bye-laws.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified during the year was 128 and were as follows :—Scarlet Fever 6, Diphtheria 23, Typhoid Fever 4, Erysipelas 3, Measles 92.

### SCARLET FEVER.

In every case the patient was removed to the hospital as soon as possible, and as several of the cases occurred in large families, I think the great value of prompt isolation in hospital is very clearly shown.

## DIPHTHERIA.

At the end of last year 3 cases were notified from some cottages at Lower Green, Esher, near the sewage farm, and in the first few days of the year 5 more cases were notified from the same District, while three more children developed the disease in the village of Esher.

The proximity of these houses to the sewage Farm at once suggested this as a possible source of infection ; but a careful enquiry failed to show any connection so far as this neighbourhood was concerned. Two families only were invaded. Out of a total of 11 cases in this outbreak no less than 9 were removed to hospital, 2 cases treated at home both proved fatal. All the children from this part of Esher were excluded from school until all fear of infection had passed.

During February and March the Thames Ditton ward was attacked with an outbreak of 3 cases, in addition to two more which occurred in Long Ditton ward close adjoining the part affected. In this case also isolation in hospital and exclusion from school of all children in the infected area, with disinfection of rooms and clothing, &c., used by patients prior to removal, soon effectually checked the spread of the disease.

## TYPHOID FEVER.

Of the 4 cases notified 3 occurred in Thames Ditton ward and 1 in Claygate. The latter case was imported into the district from London, the remaining cases were notified at considerable intervals of time, and most careful inquiries failed to discover the source of infection.

## MEASLES.

During the summer Claygate was visited by a widespread but mild epidemic of measles, during



which 54 cases were notified and in consequence it became necessary to close the schools 10 days earlier than usual for the summer vacation.

It appears to me that the great advantage in notification of measles is that early knowledge is given of an outbreak of the disease and in consequence school closure should be enforced almost as soon as would be done in case of scarlet fever or diphtheria breaking out. It also gives an opportunity of instructing parents or guardians of the nature of the disease, and of enforcing a partial isolation in the home, and a total exclusion of all children from infected houses from school.

The continued immunity from small pox in the district is a matter for congratulation, but I fear that the remarks of Sir R. Thorne in his report to the Local Government Board are only likely to prove too true, as there is no doubt that the country is being prepared for a widespread outbreak of this fatal disease. This is largely due to neglect of vaccination in the past, which though not so marked in this district as in some, is quite sufficient to leave a considerable number of the population in an unprotected state. Then, again, we have no experience as yet as to how the New Vaccination Act will work; but one thing is evident, that it is an easy matter now to avoid vaccination by means of a conscientious objection, which may be based on a genuine disbelief in vaccination, but is often due to woeful ignorance of the system. There is one thing I fear that is too certain, namely, that at some future date this Council will have to deal with an outbreak of the disease which may be small and easily suppressed or may be widespread and unmanageable under ordinary circumstances. In any case it will be well to have some scheme prepared and ready for this emergency when such does arise. This will have to include the probable provision of a temporary hospital with an accessible but isolated site,



also a temporary disinfecting station, and the provision of medical attendance and nursing for patients.

One great feature of the work of preventive medicine during the past year has been the study of tuberculosis and its prevention. It has been shown that while the adult death rate from phthisis has decreased, the death rate among children under the age of 5 years has increased very much, and it has been further shown that with this increased death rate there has been also a large increase in the consumption of milk especially among children. Evidence has been produced to show that undoubtedly milk from tuberculous cows is capable of communicating the disease. What I wish to draw your attention to, is the necessity for ensuring that cows are kept under sanitary conditions, that the cowsheds are well lighted and ventilated, and that they are efficiently cleansed. In this district all cowsheds are registered and are under inspection, and in most instances are well constructed and properly kept, but there are few I fear that cannot be considered as perfect as they should be. It is evident that good milk can only be obtained from healthy cows, and these to be in good condition and free from disease must be kept in sanitary surroundings.

I am glad to be able to say that all the dairies are well constructed and are kept in perfect order.

I have great pleasure in again thanking Mr. Henderson for his valuable help in the work of the District as well as for much useful information in drawing up this report.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. SENIOR,

B.A. ; M.B. ; B.C.CANTAB ; D.P.H.LOND.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS.

COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 1898.

No. of Complaints during the year	...	21
No. of Inspections of houses, premises. &c.		456
No of Re-inspections	... ..	108
Orders and notices issued for sanitary amendment	... ..	76
Houses, premises, &c., cleansed and white-washed	... ..	7
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	23
House drains cleansed, repaired, tapped and ventilated	... ..	27
Privies and W.C.'s repaired, &c.	... ..	13
New water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	9
New dust bins provided	... ..	33
Flushing cisterns cleansed, repaired, &c.	...	34
No. of communications received <i>re</i> Dust removal...	... ..	28
Removals of accumulations of dung, stagnant water, &c.	... ..	
No. of animals removed, being improperly kept	... ..	11
Legal proceedings and summonses	... ..	

## A

During the Year 1898, in the **ESHER AND THE DITTONS** Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	Mortality from All Causes, at Subjoined Ages.							Mortality from Subjoined Causes, Distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																									
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.						Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.					
												Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.												Erysipelas.				
Thames Ditton	..	44	6	9	3	2	17	Under 5 5 upwds	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	2	..	7	..	1	14	32	5	12	
Esher	..	31	8	3	1	5	9	Under 5 5 upwds	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	4	6	7	1	..	..	3	11	20	3	11
Long Ditton	..	19	3	5	1	6	4	Under 5 5 upwds	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	5	11	4	8	
Claygate	..	10	3	1	..	4	2	Under 5 5 upwds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	3	6	2	4	
TOTALS	..	104	20	15	5	7	32	Under 5 5 upwds	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	2	9	7	1	16	10	1	1	1	1	32	69	35	69	

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]



TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the **ESHER AND THE DITTONS** Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	Popula- tion at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										Number of such Cases removed from their Homes for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
	('census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Fevers.							Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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Thames Ditton	..	2641 3094	100	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds	.....	3	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....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State here whether “Notification of Infectious Disease” is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—1895.